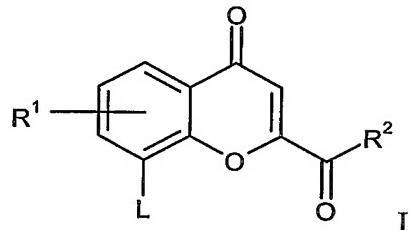


-9-

## CLAIMS

1. A process of preparing a compound of formula I:



5

wherein

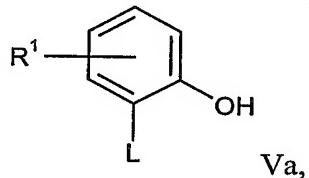
R¹ is selected from H, C<sub>1-10</sub>alkyl, halogen, amino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-oxy, or hydroxy;

L is a displaceable group selected from bromo, chloro, fluoro or iodo; and

10 R² is selected from H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, halogen, hydroxy, amino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-amino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-carbonyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-oxy and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-oxycarbonyl optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, amino and hydroxy;

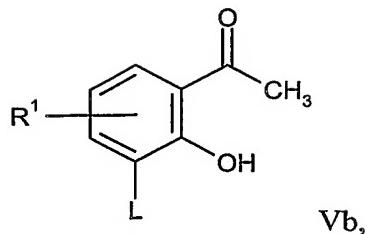
comprising:

- 15 A) heating a mixture of a compound of formula Va:



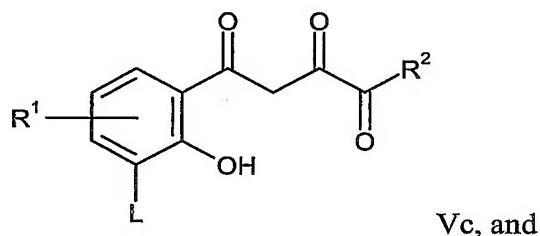
20 and acetylating agent in the presence of a Lewis acid catalyst at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula Vb:

-10-



B) combining the compounds of formula Vb and a dicarbonyl compound to an alcohol solution at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula Vc:

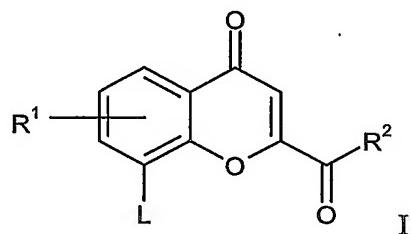
5



C) heating the compound of formula Vc with a mixture of acids at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula I.

10

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is, independently, hydrogen or fluoro.
3. A process according to claim 1, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is, independently, H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-oxy or hydroxy.
4. A process according to claim 1, wherein L is bromo.
- 15 5. A process of preparing a compound of formula I:



wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from H, C<sub>1-10</sub>alkyl, halogen, amino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-oxy, or hydroxy;

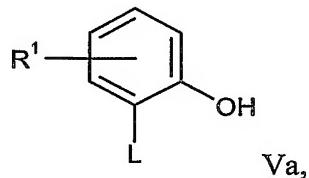
20 L is a displaceable group selected from bromo, chloro, fluoro or iodo; and

-11-

$R^2$  is selected from H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, halogen, hydroxy, amino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-amino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-carbonyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-oxy and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-oxycarbonyl optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, amino and hydroxy;

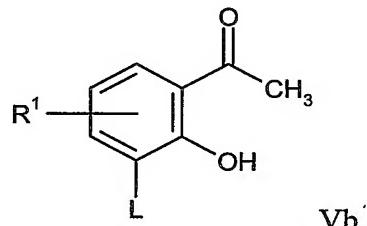
5 comprising:

A) heating a mixture of a compound of formula Va:



10

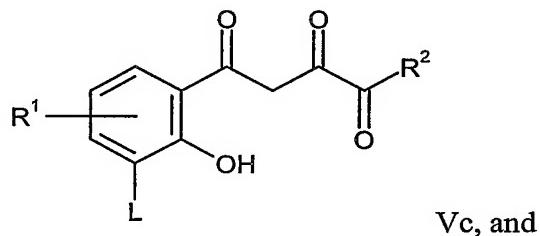
and acetyl chloride in the presence of either aluminum chloride or zirconium tetrachloride at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula Vb:



15

B) combining the compounds of formula Vb and diethyl oxalate to a solution of sodium ethoxide in absolute ethanol at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula Vc:

20



-12-

C) heating the compound of formula Vc with a mixture of acetic acid and hydrochloric acid at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula I.

- 5        6. A process according to claim 5, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is, independently, hydrogen or fluoro.  
7. A process according to claim 5, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is, independently, H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-oxy or hydroxy.  
8. A process according to claim 5, wherein L is bromo.

10